

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
October 7, 2021
6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Walker, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Eugene Hall, JT Surles and Chris Tuten. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, Planning Official Shannon Metty, County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chairman Walker called the meeting to order and Commissioner Hall led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Chairman Walker requested that items (3a & b) be taken off the Consent Agenda and that item (4h) which is the approval to enter into real property purchase and sale agreement with Bishop Enterprises, LLC be taken off general business and be brought back at a later time. Chair Walker also requested a new item (4a) be added to General Business concerning the confusion over which Main Street organization should be the recipient of the county budgeted \$4,000. **On motion by Commissioner Tuten, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda and General Business items with the proposed changes.**
3. Commissioner Barfield introduced the item 4a, the Main Street discussion. A new main street organization previously came before the board requesting the \$4,000 Main Street line item appropriation that is in the County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget. During that discussion, it was thought that the old Main Street organization was not active. Both are active and both submitted an invoice to the county to be paid \$4,000. **On motion by Commissioner Surles to remit both Main Street organizations \$4,000, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board decided to remit each Main Street organization a \$4,000 check.**
4. Planning Official Shannon Metty discussed the County road abandonment proposal on Cain Street in Wacissa Florida. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Tuten and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to follow the recommendation of the Planning Department and abandon the county owned easement known as Cain street.**
5. Commissioner Tuten gave an update on the Jefferson County Economic Development Committee in which he is the Board of County Commissioners representative. Enclosed in the meeting packet was a worksheet that detailed various levels of economic incentives for businesses including Job Creation incentives and Capital incentives.
6. County Attorney Shirley gave an update on the County's Broadband RFQ. **A motion was made by Commissioner Barfield to reject all bids and re-do the RFQ to better suit the County's needs, was seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried.**
7. Commissioner Tuten and County Coordinator Parish Barwick introduced and discussed the County's Mine contract. County Attorney Scott Shirley was directed to bring back a proposal to the Board at a future Board meeting.

8. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams requested the board have GSG expand its contract for road assessments to include Ridge Road and Oaklands Plantation. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, GSG's contract was expanded to add both Ridge Road and Oaklands Plantation.**
9. The Board directed County Coordinator Barwick to meet with each prospective group that may have an interest in leasing the old jail building from the County. Coordinator Barwick was directed to bring back his findings to a later Board meeting.
10. Commissioner Tuten discussed the fact that several businesses including the Forrest Gump Project which are currently determining the feasibility of having a business site in Jefferson County, have reached out and shown interest in our Economic Development Business incentives. Commissioner Tuten led a discussion on the specifics of the current incentives and there was also a discussion to determine if they needed to be modified. **On motion Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Tuten and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to offer the remaining Industrial Park acreage north of Alpha Foundations to the Forest Gump Project as well as adopt the current business incentive plan listed in the packet. Although the Board reserved the right moving forward to amend any incentives based on estimated economic stimulus to the County.**
11. Commissioner Hall gave an update on attached schematics of the proposed basketball court to be built at the MLK Center. This was for informational purposes only and he will bring back a proposal for the Board at a later meeting.
12. Commissioner Walker discussed the fact that no further grants were needed at the Wacissa River Park. This was for informational purposes only.
13. Commissioner Barfield inquired about Fund 17 located on the Commission check register. Clerk Reams stated each Clerk has multiple funding sources and that his State funding was part of Fund 17. Barfield asked about the \$5,000 sponsorship to a Jefferson County Republican Party event as well as the \$5,000 Dick Unlimited sponsorship. Clerk Reams stated the sponsorship to the Republican event would be reimbursed.
14. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams gave an update to the board concerning the FDOT's 5-year road grant plan and stated that the \$2.7 million Waukeenah Highway project was back on it which is very good for the County.
15. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick gave an update on his interviews with 2 potential candidates for the Solid Waste Director's position. After interviews were concluded he recommended the current interim Director, Robbie Slack. The Board gave Coordinator Barwick the direction to offer the job to Mr. Slack.
16. **On motion by Commissioner Tuten, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

**Board of County Commissioners
Jefferson County, Florida**

Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court